

Downtown Revitalization Committee
Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 19, 2010

5:30 p.m.

Newington Town Hall

- I. **Roll Call:** Chairman McBride convened the Committee at 5:30 p.m. In addition to Mr. McBride, present were: Mr. Lenares, Mr. Banach, Mr. Marocchini, Mr. Shields, Mrs. Cohen, Mr. Gerhart (at 6:30 p.m.).

Others Present: Town Planner Ed Meehan and Town Engineer, Anthony Ferraro.

II. **Minutes**

April 7, 2010 Meeting: Mrs. Cohen moved that the minutes of the April 7, 2010 meeting be approved as presented, seconded by Mr. Marocchini and approved.

III. **Municipal Parking Project**

- A. Mr. Meehan reported BL Engineers prepared a cost comparison analysis of the options for replacing the decorative stamped asphalt at the center green crosswalks with standard asphalt pavement, concrete or brick pavers. (see attached exhibit A for cost comparison)

Mr. Marocchini moved that the Committee approve the use of standard asphalt pavement, cost option A for \$5,688 versus \$32,076 for concrete and \$48,114 for brick pavers. The net savings would be \$59,356. Seconded by Mr. Lenares and unanimously approved

- B. Chairman McBride asked about the status of design and cost options for screening the west side dumpster enclosure. Mr. Meehan circulated copies of 4 design options prepared by BL Engineers. All four options propose a planting bed around the block walls, option A and B entail large wide beds that would cause parking space loss. The consensus of the Committee was for "option C" with a three foot (3') wide planting bed, no loss of parking. BL Engineers will be requested to prepare a probable cost estimate which will be forwarded to Committee members via e-mail. The preparation of the planting beds and extruded concrete curb must be done before the final pavement course is applied, estimate in two to three weeks.

Tom Shields requested the Town Engineer and BL Engineers to inspect the storm drain covers and consider their replacement. These four concrete covers were reused from the previous parking lot work. Mr. Shields felt that new drainage tops would look better than the old frames, some are chipped. Town Staff will discuss with the project engineer and get a cost estimate for the Committee's review.

IV. **Market Square Streetscape Project**

Town Engineer Anthony Ferraro circulated a draft RFP for consultant engineer services for the Market Square Phase IV Streetscape project. Based on the general project schedule discussed at the April 7th Committee meeting, the suggested draft RFP response date is July 20th. The Committee members discussed moving this date up to provide more lead time for working with the numerous businesses and Market Square property owners.

Mr. Banach moved that the Phase IV Streetscape RFP be advertised as soon as possible with a return date for May 13th, seconded by Mrs. Cohen and unanimously approved.

Mr. Ferraro stated that the May 13th response date should be sufficient for interested firms to submit their proposals and will give staff time to review prior to the Committee's May 17th meeting. Mr. Meehan explained that the Committee should consider selecting at least three (3) firms to interview and be prepared to make a recommendation to the Town Council for their consideration for appointment.

V. Public Participation

Val Ginn recommended that Phase IV Streetscape design include adequate electrical service for Market Square festival events. Ms. Ginn requested that the Committee's agenda be revised to include public participation at the beginning of each meeting.

Carol Anest commented that screening the dumpster is a good idea and the dumpster on the east side, Phase II of the parking lot, should have similar treatment. Ms. Anest requested that the project engineer check the handicapped ramps at several locations as they appear to be set too high.

Rose Lyons expressed concern that the dumpsters already have graffiti and the gates do not align properly. Ms. Lyons reminded the Committee that all the good parking design and construction will be negated if a maintenance program for the landscaping, litter control and sweeping are done by the Town.

VI. Adjournment

Mr. Shields moved that the Committee adjourn at 6:50 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Marocchini and approved.

Submitted,

Edmund J. Meehan
Town Planner

Town Clerk
Town Website